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BY THE HOUSE OF DELEGATES,

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MINORITY REPORT

OF THE

COMMITTEE

ON

FEDERAL RELATIONS.

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MINORITY REPORT.

The undersigned minority of the Committee on Federal Relations respectfully submit the following report relative to the compensation from Congress for losses sustained by the State of Maryland by the war:

Whereas, By a joint resolution, approved April 10th, 1862, Congress resolved that the United States ought to co-operate with any State which may adopt gradual abolishment of slavery, giving to such State pecuniary aid to be used by such State in its discretion, to compensate for the inconveniences, public and private, caused by such change of system, thus manifesting a disposition to pay the citizens of such States for losses occasioned by the war; and

Whereas, Congress and the President both evidently believed that if the border slave States would accept such proposition, it would tend to weaken the armed resistance to the United States Government, stay the tide of war that was then desolating our land, and by saving a large amount of blood and treasure, fully compensate the nation for the amount paid to the border States; and

Whereas, The representatives of Maryland then in Congress neglected to urge upon the citizens of the State the importance of the proposition, and the citizens of the slaveholding counties, and slaveholders generally, treated the proposition with indifference and contempt, denouncing Mr. Lincoln and Congress in unmeasured terms for their stupidity in supposing that they would ever consent to any such an arrangement; and

Whereas, By the refusal of Maryland and the other border slave States to accept said proposition, the war was prolonged several years, causing an additional expenditure of thousands of lives and millions of treasure by the nation, Maryland having to furnish its part, which resulted in a loss to the State of many of its bravest and most patriotic sons, in addition to the loss of much private property, carried away and destroyed by the rebels during their several invasions of the State; therefore, be and it is hereby

Resolved, By the General Assembly of Maryland, on behalf of those of her loyal citizens whose husbands and fathers have given their lives for the maintenance of our Government, That any monies or lands hereafter appropriated by Congress to Maryland as compensation for losses sustained by the war, be set apart as a fund to be used in the support of the widows of loyal Union soldiers who fell in the late terrible struggle, and in the maintenance and education of their children. And be it further

Resolved, That the General Assembly ought to provide by law for taking and perpetuating the evidence of the amount and value of all private property taken and destroyed by the rebel army during its several invasions of the State, hoping that at some future time Congress may see fit to compensate the loyal people of the State for the loss of all property taken and destroyed by the armed enemies of the United States Government.

UPTON BUHRMAN.

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